THE MOFFETT'S CREEK

Marble Company of Virginia,

Incorporated under the Laws of Virginia,

Capital Stock, $250,000, 10,000 Shares,

PAR VALUE, $25.00.

$20.00 Paid in, Subject to no Further Assessment.

CH 9-0313

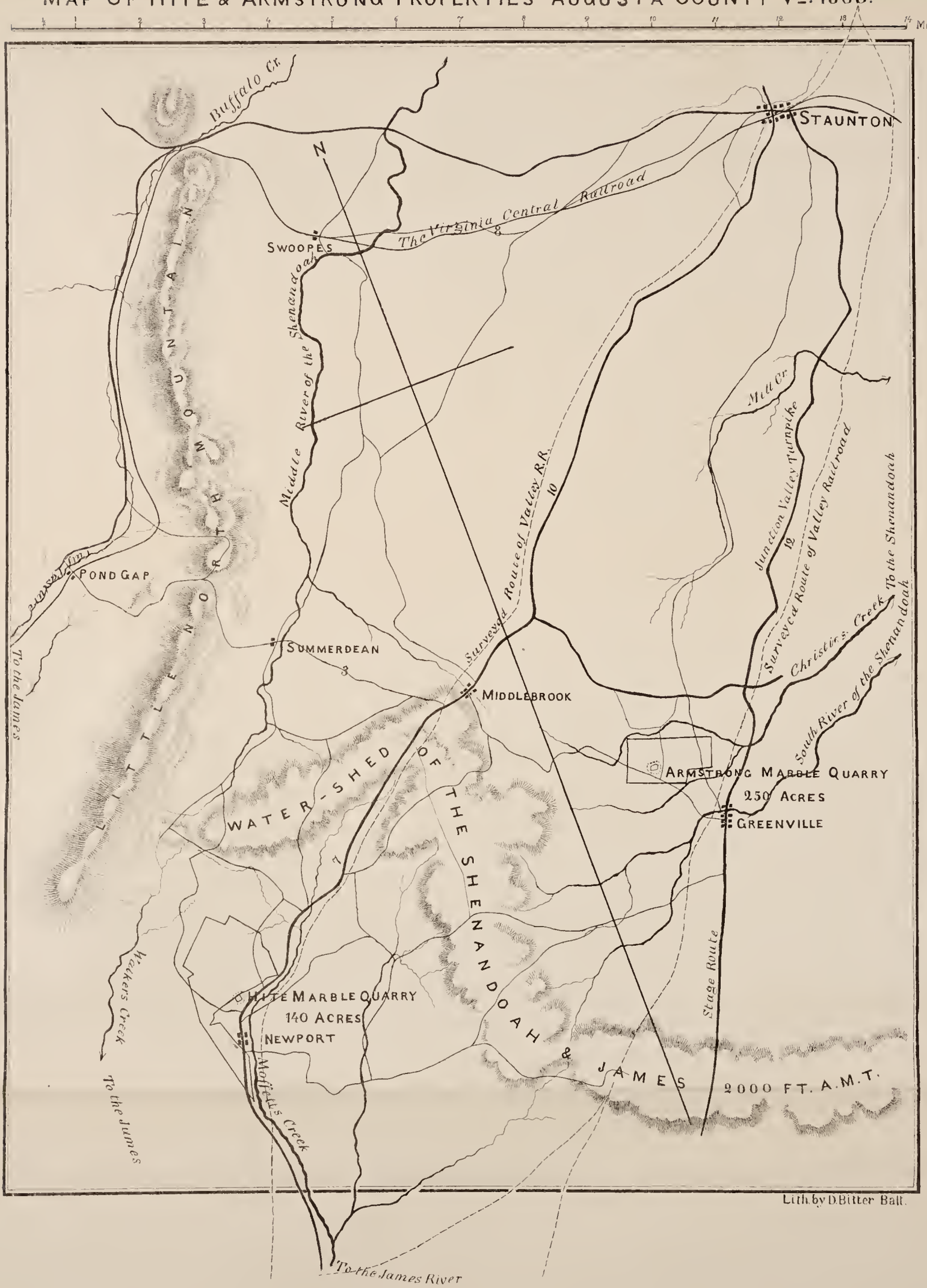
Baltimore:

From the Press of James Lucas & Son.

1868.

MOFFETTS CREEK MARBLE COMPANY

MAP OF HITE & ARMSTRONG PROPERTIES AUGUSTA COUNTY VA. 1868.



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Staunton, Va., and Baltimore, Md.

1868.

Moffett's Creek Marble Company.

There has recently been brought to the attention of the public a discovery of a very extensive deposit of a very superior article of Marble in Augusta County, Virginia, not far from Staunton.

In order to appreciate fully the importance of this discovery, it is proper to consider some statistics connected with the trade in Marble. Marble is largely employed in the United States for public buildings, the fronts of stores in cities, and for many other purposes. Its employment has, in recent years, been very rapidly extending. There has been a large trade in it between the North and South, and between the East and West. The Marble Custom House at Charleston, S. C., was built of stone from Massachusetts and New York. Every block was fitted at the quarry for the place it was to occupy in the building. By reference to the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, published in 1864, on the "Statistics of the Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the United States," it will be seen how large and very much increased was the trade in Marble between the East and the West. The imports of foreign Marble at the port of New York alone in 1866, amounted to more than the imports into the whole country in 1859.

According to the census of 1860, it appears that there were at that time in the United States in operation, establishments for the manufacture of Marble and Stone work, (principally it

is believed, Marble work,) to the number of 1,806; with a capital employed of nearly nine (9) millions of dollars, that the raw material cost between five and six millions, that the number of hands employed was more than fifteen (15) thousand, that the annual cost of labor was between five and six millions of dollars, and that the annual value of products was more than sixteen millions of dollars.

The business in Marble has largely increased since that time, and it will continue to increase as we advance in wealth and luxury. The experience of older nations and our own experience and present tendencies abundantly prove this.

Premising this, and in order more fully to understand the bearings of this discovery of an immense deposit of fine Marble, in its pecuniary aspects, so far as it concerns those who are able and willing to co-operate, to avail themselves of it, let us inquire:

What is Marble and what are some of the differences between the various kinds, which make so much difference in their comparative values?

"Marble in its strict and proper sense is a rock crystallized in a saccharoidal manner, having the fracture of sugar-loaf, and composed of carbonate of lime, either almost pure when the color is white, or combined with oxide of iron or other impurities which give various colors to it. But many other kinds of stone are popularly included under this title. Indeed any limestone rock sufficiently compact to admit of a polish is called Marble."—*Chambers' Encyclopædia.*

"The White Marbles of Connecticut and New York are highly granular, and in general, are too slightly coherent in the aggregation of their particles to be employed in constructions which are exposed to the weather; besides they are often contaminated with crystals and fibres of tremolite."—*Encyclopædia Americana.*

The specific gravity of Marble is about 2.7 and the weight of a cubic foot about 169 pounds.

Marble is sometimes what is called a *dolomite*, that is, instead of being composed almost purely of carbonate of lime, composed to a great extent of carbonate of magnesia. A pure *dolomite* consists of 54.3 of carbonate of lime, and 45.7 per cent. of carbonate of magnesia. It occurs in extensive beds as a compact limestone, and also as a crystalline granular rock, either white or clouded. Much of the common white Marble is dolomite.

"The Marble of Sing Sing, New York, is a true dolomite and of a kind disposed to disintegrate and rapidly crumble away. * * * * * * * * * Most of the white marbles are dolomites."—*New American Encyclopædia.*

Marble is also sometimes what is termed *brecciated*, that is, consists of angular fragments cemented together. Brecciated is a term used to describe a rock composed of angular fragments, either of the same mineral or of different minerals united by a cement.

"Among the *brecciated* marbles of the United States, the best known is that of the Potomac on the Maryland side, some miles below the Point of Rocks. The principal use that has been made of it was to furnish the columns in the old chamber of representatives at Washington. The irregularities of hardness in the different ingredients render it an expensive stone to work; still the quarries are deserving of more than government patronage."—*New Encyclopædia Americana.*

"The Point of Rocks Marble has been designated a '*pudding stone.*' Pudding stone is a term applied to Marble which contains in its composition, fragments not angular, but rounded like pebbles. It is a conglomerate of rounded pieces."—*Ure's Dictionary.*

Thus we see, that according to the composition of Marble, is the ease with which it is worked, and its capacity to be worked in every direction and its not being liable to splinter, as well as the expense of quarrying and working it, and its durability and its adaptability to the various purposes for which it is used

as building, furniture, interior work, statuary, &c., all of which go to make up its value. It is more or less valuable according to its fineness of texture, its softness and the ease with which it is fashioned by the chisel or hammer, and its evenness of grain, so as to be split with wedges.

"The Parian Marble of which some of the finest Grecian sculptures were formed, is a finely granular and very durable stone, with a waxy appearance when polished."—*Chambers' Encyclopœdia.*

Ure's Dictionary calls the Parian Marble a foliated limestone.

"In North America, White Marbles are worked at various places on the range of the great belt of *metamorphic* rocks through Canada, Vermont, Western Massachusetts, a little back of the Cities of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, and thence through Virginia and the Carolinas into Northern Georgia and Alabama. It is this formation that supplies the White Marble for building purposes to the different cities along its range, (as from Sing Sing, New York, the quarries near Philadelphia, and at Texas near Baltimore,) and its quarries in Massachusetts and New York furnish the Marble for the most costly edifices of Southern Cities. The Statuary Marble is only the finest grained variety of this common building stone. Many localities are known to furnish it in small beds interstratified with the coarser Marble. In Vermont only have they been found of sufficient thickness to justify working them. The quarries of Rutland, furnish Marble of exceedingly delicate texture and purity of whiteness, and the blocks are large and round, and quite as beautiful as the Statuary Marble of Carrara. The objections to it are, that it is harder and more brittle than the foreign. These defects will probably diminish as the stone is obtained from beneath deeper cover."—*New Encyclopœdia Americana.*

When Marble is composed almost altogether of carbonate of lime, its color is white and of a fine shade, and its texture is

fine, making it very valuable. It is easily worked at comparatively little expense, is susceptible of a high polish, and articles made from it have a high finish.

"Carrara is a fine grained, pure white Marble, but is so often traversed by gray veins, that it is difficult to get large blocks free from them."—*Chambers' Encyclopædia.*

Indeed it is difficult to get even moderate sized blocks free from them.

No ocean traversing vessels can load at the beach below Carrara, as the depth of water is too inconsiderable, and coasters have to be used to convey the Marble for shipment elsewhere on large vessels. Then again, Carrara Marble has to combat with government restrictions and imposts, the ill-directed enterprise of the proprietors, and the expense of getting the stone to the coast of the Mediterranean, some miles distant, over miserable ox-tracks, in antediluvian ox-wagons, and then of placing it on vessels to be carried to deeper water to be transferred to larger vessels.

About half the Marble in blocks, quarried at Carrara, is exported to the United States, which appears to be a good and steady market. Of the other half, one-third is exported to Great Britain, and two-thirds to the rest of Europe. A heavy duty is levied on Carrara Marble in France in order to keep up the demand for home produce. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, Carrara Marble is much used there. In England they have various native marbles, and yet in 1859 the best Carrara Marble in rough blocks or slabs, sold for as much as three pounds per cubic foot, equal at the present price for gold, (140,) to twenty-one dollars per cubic foot in our currency.

In the selection of the Marble for the extension of the United States Capitol, careful experiments were made by the commission appointed for this purpose, in testing the qualities of the different kinds offered. The Marble selected is a fine grained dolomite, from a quarry in the southeast part of Lee, Massachusetts, for the most part white with occasional blue veins.—

Its composition is as follows in one hundred parts: Carbonate of lime 54.621, carbonate of magnesia 43.932 with various impurities making up the 100. When this Marble was placed in the walls, a remarkable brownish discoloration appeared.—This was owing to its great porosity, the cause having been traced to the evaporation of the water absorbed from the mortar and otherwise through its pores, and the deposition of the impurities brought along by the water.

Now it is believed that Marble has been found superior to any American Marble heretofore known, and the equal of the Italian, and that the deposit is one of immense extent. The section of country in which this deposit has been found is in Augusta County, Virginia, not far from the town of Staunton. It is in two localities, one on Moffett's Creek and the other on Christie's Creek.

The Moffett's Creek Quarry is upon the creek of that name. Moffett's Creek flows into the North River, the North River into the James. The McAdamized road leading from Staunton, the county seat of Augusta County, to Lexington, the county seat of Rockbridge County, passes over the edge of the Quarry tract. The distance from the Quarry to Staunton on the Virginia Central Rail Road, leading to Richmond, is sixteen miles, and the distance of the Quarry from Swoope's Depot on the same rail road is twelve miles. The distance of the Quarry from Lexington is nineteen miles. At Lexington there is water transportation by the North River Canal to the James River Canal, which goes to Richmond on the James River.—Up from Lexington towards the Quarry, the North River is navigable for *batteaux* about eleven miles, which will bring water transportation within nine or ten miles of the Quarry. For transportation West, the Covington and Ohio Road, a continuation of the Virginia Central from Staunton to the Ohio River, will, when completed, give rail road transportation in that direction, and drive the Vermont Marble out of the market, as that of this Quarry is superior to the Vermont article, and equal if not superior to the Italian. The friends of this road are using all efforts to put it under contract.

Besides these means of transportation, there was obtained at the last session of the Virginia Legislature, a charter for what is known as the Valley Rail Road. This will eventually secure rail road communication from the East Tennessee and Virginia Rail Road, now in operation and connecting with the various lines South and West, down the Valley of Virginia, crossing the Virginia Central Rail Road by Staunton, and the Manassas Gap Rail Road, which enters the Valley at a pass in the Blue Ridge not far from Strasburg, a town in the Valley, and on towards Winchester, also in the Valley. There is in operation under the management of the Baltimore and Ohio Road, a rail road from its road to Winchester. From Winchester to Strasburg—distant from the former place eighteen miles up the Valley—there is a rail road now being built. From Strasburg up the Valley and beyond Harrisonburgh and to within about twenty miles of Staunton, the Manassas Gap Rail Road has been built and in operation for years. The intention and effort, temporarily delayed by the war, is immediately to carry it up to Staunton. The Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, with its vast resources, under its present intelligent and enterprising management, is alive to the importance of speedily completing perfect rail road connection with itself up the fertile Valley of Virginia to Staunton and on to Lexington and to the East Tennessee and Virginia Rail Road. Before the era of rail roads, produce from East Tennessee used to be transported by heavy wagon teams down the Valley of Virginia to Baltimore.

This is the short interior route from East Tennessee to the North and East, to the seaboard and a market.

The experimental line of this Valley Rail Road has been run on two different routes by the civil engineers of the company. One of them has been run within five hundred yards of the Quarry, and the other within about three and a half miles of it. It is the opinion that this road will soon be built.

At present the Marble will have to be hauled either to Staunton, sixteen miles, or to Swoope's Depot, twelve miles, or to

navigation on the North River, ten miles. A good four horse team will haul about fifty cubic feet at a cost of about four dollars and a half a load. The cost of transporting the same amount of Marble from Staunton to Baltimore, would be about twenty-five dollars and fifty cents more, making the cost of transportation from the Quarry to Baltimore, of the fifty cubic feet about thirty dollars. Transportation by the canal route, via Lexington, would be cheaper, and by the Manassas Gap Rail Road to Alexandria, and thence by water, still less. On inquiry, it has been ascertained that the rail roads charge for 100 lbs. from Staunton to Richmond, for undressed 27, and dressed 94, to Alexandria 23 and 76 respectively.

As to the cost of getting the Marble out, it may be stated, that in the locality of the Quarry labor is plenty and low in price. It is wholly an agricultural section. Hands can be obtained for one dollar *per* day—they boarding themselves. This item, lessening so much the cost of getting out the Marble, is of much importance in estimating the value of the Quarry.

As to the Quarry itself, a vein of *the Pure White* Marble is within about twenty or twenty-five feet of the top of a hill, where it juts out and where it was opened at first. The vein at one place seems to be nearly vertical, and at another to incline horizontally and to appear to run into the hill. At one place where it is vertical, the side stone has been removed down about seven feet. Here the vein, which is two feet and a half wide at the surface where it shows itself, was found at the depth of seven feet, to be fully four and a half feet thick of *the Pure White Marble.* The rock at the surface by its sides, is a limestone of coarse gray, or passing from gray to blue. This rock as it descends, runs into a fine article of variegated Marble, in some places nearly two-thirds white, and which judges of the matter say will run into a ledge of Marble similar to *the pure white* vein. It is well known that surface rock of the same sort is not as good as that found lower down. The vein of *pure white* at the surface seems to run in nearly an east and west

direction. The distance from the extreme ends of the openings made of the vein, is fully sixty feet. At the western end of that sixty feet, the vein seems to lie horizontally, dipping into the hill. At this point, an opening has been made of seven or eight feet and the Marble shows itself at a distance from the surface of about nine inches down to as far as the side stone has been removed. The stone stripped from the top of the vein here was limestone gray passing into blue. The stone from the side of the vein has not been removed for the whole of the sixty feet. It must be remembered that these openings are within twenty or twenty-five feet of the top of the hill, the height being about one hundred and fifty feet from the bottom of the creek. Down the hill to the right, sloping some fifty yards and on a straight line from the opening, down about, say seventy feet, another vein of fine white Marble has been discovered. All the small and large stones from the foot of the hill to its top, that is, all the surface rock, are a mixture of white Marble, variegated Marble, and of the gray limestone passing into blue rock. Both ways from where the vein juts out and the openings have been made in a direction corresponding with the course of the vein, the surface loose stones and occasionally *pure white* seams from an inch to a foot broad are proof positive of a vein or deposit of *Pure White Marble*. These croppings can be traced in one direction for fifteen hundred yards, and at no point in the immediate vicinity can there be found rock without apparent traces of the white Marble. Across the bottom, west from the Quarry, at the foot of another hill, one hundred and fifty feet or more below where the vein juts out and the openings are made, there is what some have called the outcropping of white Marble; one scientific gentleman calls it the blossom Galena, a species of lead ore. The surrounding country is underlaid by limestone rock. Judging from the surface and the openings made at different places, it is believed that from the foot of the hill below the jutting out of the vein, up to the horizontal vein, there are continuous stratas of the white

Marble, and that the vertical vein goes into the earth for a considerable distance and consequently that the quantity of *Pure White Marble* is very great, not to dwell upon the variegated Marble, some of which is more than two-thirds white.

There is another matter of very great importance to mention in connection with this Quarry. Moffett's Creek upon which it is situated, is fed by never failing springs, and within two hundred yards of the Quarry there is water power sufficient to do all work of sawing and dressing of Marble at all seasons of the year. A fall for water power, seventy-five feet high can be obtained if necessary.

The tract of land upon which this Quarry is situated, contains one hundred and forty acres of land.

The other Marble Quarry lies on Christie's Creek, a tributary of the South River, a tributary of the Shenandoah River in Augusta County. The tract containing it consists of about two hundred and fifty acres. The Marble extends for nearly a half mile through this tract. It is nearly vertical, has a blueish gray limestone upon both sides of it. Where it juts out it is about six feet thick. In color white—it is not quite so white on the surface as the pure white of the Moffett's Creek Quarry, but it is believed it will be found as white when mined down a few feet. Many years ago it was partly opened and used in the vicinity for tombstones, and also pieces were taken out for furniture, which answered the purpose intended admirably.—It is situated eleven miles from Staunton. There is sufficient water power upon the premises to drive any machinery that may be used.

There is also upon this tract a *ledge* of good *gray* Marble, probably six to eight feet thick. The surrounding country is a succession of hills from fifty to three hundred feet high, above the bed of the water courses. That there is an immense quantity of the *White Marble* here there can be no doubt whatever.

Geographically these Quarries are so situated as to give them, if properly developed and managed, the control of the whole Southern and Western Trade, while the *Quality* of the *Marble* will cause it to supplant that from the Vermont Quarries in the Northern States.

This latter or Christie's Creek Quarry is about eight miles from the former or Moffett's Creek Quarry.

From numerous letters from persons thoroughly posted as to the quality and amount of these marble deposits, we think it quite sufficient to publish the three following letters, the first from the Hon. Alexander H. H. Steuart of Staunton, Va., who was Secretary of the Department of the Interior during the administration of Mr. Fillmore; the second letter is from the distinguished chemist and geologist, Professor Wm. E. A. Aiken, and the third is from Professor Richard Owen of the Indiana State University.

STAUNTON, VA., *June 29th*, 1868.

Messrs. ARCHER & SAVIN.

Gentlemen:—When I was in charge of the Department of the Interior, during the administration of Mr. Fillmore, it became my duty to supervise the erection of the new wings to the Capitol of the United States. Feeling a strong desire to select the best attainable material, I organized a commission, consisting of Prof. Henry, Gen'l Totten, Mr. Ewbank, Thos. N. Walter and Mr. Downing, and instructed them to examine all the specimens of Marble and Granite which had been proposed as material for the walls, and to apply to them every test known to science. They fulfilled this duty with great care, and I then submitted their report, with specimens of the Marble and Granite to the Committees on Public Buildings of the two Houses of Congress. This commission reported very decidedly in favor of the Vermont Marble and the Richmond Granite, and by the advice of the commission, they were selected.

Whilst this matter was pending before the Department, I had opportunities of inspecting specimens of Marble taken from all the principal quarries in the Northern States, and I concurred in opinion, with the commission, that the Vermont Marble was the best.

Within the last year, I have seen specimens of Marble taken from the Moffett's Creek Quarries in Augusta County, Va., and I have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that the Moffett's Creek Marble is whiter, finer grained, and in all respects better, than any that was exhibited to me in Washington. It is true I am not an expert in such matters, but the pure whiteness and the clear compact grain of the Virginia Marble must strike the most casual observer.

I have given no personal examination to the Moffett's Creek Quarries, but from representations made to me by persons in whom I have entire confidence, I cannot doubt that the deposit is large and valuable, and I earnestly hope that a sufficient amount of capital, skill and enterprise may be enlisted in the undertaking now on foot to develope these quarries fully. From the information given to me by the parties above referred to, I feel great confidence that these quarries can be extensively worked with profit to the stockholders and benefit to the public.

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

ALEX. H. H. STEUART.

BALTIMORE, *June 5th*, 1868.

Messrs. ARCHER & SAVIN, *Bankers.*

Gentlemen :—The samples of Marble from Augusta County, Va., received last week, and since polished, exhibit so great an improvement when compared with the surface specimens first obtained, that there can be no reasonable doubt as to its condition, when the beds are properly developed. The quality of the Marble is beyond all question very superior, and from a personal examination of the deposits, I can say there is abundant evidence that the Marble can be procured in large quantity.

When the quarries are once properly opened, I am of opinion that you can safely calculate on an abundant supply of Marble fully equal to the best Italian.

Respectfully, &c.,

WILLIAM E. A. AIKIN, M. D., LL.D.,

Prof. Chemistry, &c., University of Md., Analytical and Consulting Chemist.

NEW HARMONY, POSEY COUNTY, INDIANA, *Feb. 26th*, 1868.

Messrs. ARCHER & SAVIN, *Baltimore, Md.*

Gentlemen :—Mr. Sidney M. Campbell of Western Virginia, recently sent me a specimen of White Marble from Augusta County, Virginia, with the request that I would analyze it and give my opinion of it in a geological, mineralogical and chemical point of view, in a letter addressed to you.

I was then at the Indiana State University, Bloomington, where I am professor, but being temporarily called home just after the receipt of his communication, the analysis was made here, in the laboratory of my late brother, (Dr. D. D. Owen, State Geologist of Kentucky and Arkansas,) and resulted as follows:

Lime, ...	54.44
Carbonic Acid, water and loss, . . .	45.56
	100.00

There was scarcely a trace of insoluble matter and no iron. After allowing for the water and loss, the above would differ but little from pure carbonate of lime, (viz: 56 of lime and 44 of carbonic acid,) consequently there is no foreign admixture which could prevent it from being considered among the purest of marbles. The specimens

sent are too small to enable me to speak positively regarding the absence of all flaws or other mechanical defects in larger blocks; but so far as I can judge from these specimens, there are no flaws or cracks, and the Marble takes a much higher polish than the Vermont Marble, such as is usually shipped West for tombstones; and it seems fully equal to the Italian Marble used by our stonecutters for the more expensive and ornamental work.

As regards the geological position, this Marble was obtained when we might theoretically expect to find a good article. The Alleghany upheaval is generally considered to have taken place about the close of the Carboniferous Era and to have brought to the surface some of the Metamorphic Sedimentary rocks. The best statuary marbles are of this character, and the fine marbles of East Tennessee, (used in the Nashville capitol,) and those of North Carolina, (which I examined last Summer,) and the Augusta County Marble of Virginia are nearly on a continuous line parallel to the general range of the Appalachian chain, and consequently but a short distance apart, say 250 miles from the first to the last, the second being intermediate.

All marbles of a later period are liable to be fossiliferous, and are thus unsuited for the finer works of the artist. The best Italian Marbles belong to the Metamorphic Series, to which I presume the above to belong, as far as I can judge without visiting the locality. The Vermont Marble is much softer than the North Carolina and Virginia specimens I have seen, I presume in consequence of being less metamorphosed by the forces which acted in giving a greater elevation to the peaks and ridges of North Carolina and Virginia, than to those at the extreme north and south ends of the same Appalachian range.

I should, therefore, consider the Virginia samples as indicating not only greater adaptation for finer work, but also greater durabillty than the softer varieties.

Very respectfully yours,

RICHARD OWEN,

Professor of Chemistry and Geology, Indiana State University, and State Geologist of Indiana.

As to the pecuniary value of these Quarries; there is a large and increasing use of the finer kinds of Marble in this country for many purposes; such for instance as counter tops, washstand tops, &c., &c., &c. The demand for *Pure White Marble* is said to be in excess of the supply. After such Marble is ready for market it brings from thirty to forty dollars *per cubic foot*,—running face measure, twenty cents *per square inch*, one half inch thick. Now suppose that the vein of the Moffett's Creek Quarry is only fifteen hundred feet long and averages four feet wide and one foot deep, this would give six thousand cubic feet. This polished and ready for use, would

bring, at thirty-five dollars *per cubic foot*, two hundred and ten thousand dollars; if the vein is ten feet deep, it would give two million, one hundred thousand dollars. Allow half this for transportation, &c., &c., and there would be a large *margin* left. This amount of Marble, for furniture purposes, at twenty cents per square inch, one half inch thick, would be, for one square foot, twenty-eight dollars and eighty cents per square foot, one half inch thick; which would give for one cubic foot twenty-four times that amount, or six hundred and ninety one dollars and twenty cents as the value of one cubic foot alone, sawed into slabs one-half inch thick, one foot square at twenty cents per square inch, ready for use. Now the six thousand cubic feet, multiplied by six hundred and ninety-one dollars and twenty cents, would give four million, one hundred and forty-seven thousand and two hundred dollars. Say half this goes for transportation, dressing, &c., &c. A stock company would here have a fine opening and a prospect of very profitable returns for an investment. The company which proposes to purchase, develope, and work these Marble Quarries will have a capital stock of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, in ten thousand shares, at twenty-five dollars per share—the subscription price of shares to be twenty dollars, *subject* to no further assessments.

Specimens of the Marble can be seen by application to

Messrs. ARCHER & SAVIN, Bankers,

No. 224 Baltimore Street, near Charles.

BALTIMORE, MD.

Subscriptions to the Capital Stock, received by Messrs. Archer & Savin, *Baltimore;* J. A. Ruff, Treasurer, *Washington, D. C.;* and by the Officers of the Company in Staunton, Va.